absolute moral opposition to the death penalty, but from a very practical sense that once we begin executing terrorists, this will give legitimization to the execution of any Israeli civilian or soldier captured by our enemies. This would be barbaric on both sides, and would not serve the safety of Israeli citizens. Ms. Freedman seems to be willing to give up the rule of law and the most basic principles of humanity; she is giving Arafat and his henchmen their greatest victory — the destruction of Jewish values.

Furthermore, Ms. Freedman's support of an Arab-free Israel falls into a moral trap that most intelligent Jews should be wary of. An Arab-free Israel is not only physically and economically impossible, it is a moral catastrophe for the Jewish people. Freedman's logic would be the moral justification for anti-semitism and Jew-free societies every place in the world. She would have us willingly create the greatest Jewish ghetto in the world — a ghetto State of Israel, that would soon be torn apart by internal struggles between the religious fundamentalists Ms. Freedman supports and the majority of secular and traditional Zionists who have built the modern State of Israel, including a Declaration of Independence that includes a commitment to democracy.

Ms. Freedman is shocked that many Israelis "hate Orthodox Jews." She doesn't understand that what many Israelis hate is religious fundamentalism that leads to racism, tax support for tens of thousands of Yeshiva students who neither serve in the army nor support their families, and religious parties that mistake the narrow interests of their parties with the common good for the people of Israel.

Reasonable Jews must reject the destruction of Israel and of Jewish values that are inherent in Ms. Freedman's comments. Her arguments are more than dangerous and racist; in the name of saving Israel as a Jewish state, her approach would destroy Israel and threaten the existence of Jews everywhere.•

Joel G. Magid

Dear Editor:

In his article, "The Dreyfus Affair (*Midstream*, January 2002), Joseph Adler states that Alfred Dreyfus was "pressured into confessing that he was a traitor."

I know of no source that would corroborate this statement. More than one hundred years after the event, Dreyfus remains defined by his unalterable unwillingness to compromise his insistence on his innocence. This, *despite* enormous pressure, degradation, and incarceration for years on Devil's Island.

Allen Bodner

Dear Editor:

Michael Benazon's article, "Can the Middle Eastern Stalemate Be Broken?" (*Midstream*, January 2002), demonstrates the pitfalls when academic *yordim* offer sage advice about how the Israeli government is to run the affairs of state. Only those living in Israel who contend with the realities of life here are sufficiently informed and have their finger on the pulse of reality here. The author's lack of such knowledge is glaring, such as his assertion that Ehud Barak could have defeated Ariel Sharon if he had been kinder to the Arab rioters and received their votes — statistically untenable. He also does not know how very little support the Israeli left has in Israel currently, and I sense that he is getting his information from CNN, *The New York Times*, or *Ha'aretz*.

Every Jew in the Golah is entitled to his opinion, but please spare your readers the need to endure another rationalization of a former Israeli who feels the need to explain why he is living somewhere else.

David N. Schwartz, *Rehovot, Israel*

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